

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 289

Urging the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the Interior Repatriation Program for apprehended aliens who repeatedly enter the United States illegally, urging the President of the United States to request more funds for such program for fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2003

Mr. REYES submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the Interior Repatriation Program for apprehended aliens who repeatedly enter the United States illegally, urging the President of the United States to request more funds for such program for fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

Whereas in September 2003, the Department of Homeland Security launched the Lateral Repatriation Program under which undocumented Mexican nationals apprehended in Arizona are flown to border communities in Texas and from there repatriated to Mexico;

Whereas the Lateral Repatriation Program seeks to reduce the number of deaths of migrants entering the United

States through deserts in Arizona, where 146 people have already perished this year;

Whereas the Lateral Repatriation Program can have the negative affect of burdening border communities with people with few or no resources and without any connection to the communities to which they are brought, causing social problems;

Whereas the immediate and forced cessation of the current Lateral Repatriation Program will remove an enforcement option available to the Department of Homeland Security and increase the likelihood that undocumented immigrants will re-enter the United States across the deserts of Arizona at great risk to their own lives;

Whereas the Lateral Repatriation Program is one of many tools to address illegal immigration and is not as effective at reducing repeated attempts to enter the United States illegally as the Interior Repatriation Program;

Whereas the Interior Repatriation Program, which is underutilized, may be used to send apprehended undocumented Mexican immigrants to locations in Mexico closer to their hometowns, alleviating a burden on border communities and making it less likely that these individuals will again attempt to enter the United States illegally; and

Whereas expanded use of the Interior Repatriation Program can reduce costs associated with repeated apprehensions but will require additional funding resources: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

1 (1) commends the Department of Homeland
2 Security for its efforts to reduce the number of mi-
3 grant deaths in the deserts of Arizona;

4 (2) urges the Secretary of Homeland Security
5 to use the Interior Repatriation Program authorized
6 under section 437 of the Antiterrorism and Effective
7 Death Penalty Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1253 note) to
8 repatriate to the interior of their native country
9 Mexican nationals who have repeatedly entered the
10 United States illegally;

11 (3) calls on the President of the United States
12 to request more funds for such program in the Ad-
13 ministration's fiscal year 2005 budget; and

14 (4) calls on the Government of Mexico to work
15 with the United States in implementing such pro-
16 gram.

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